

Carroll John, abp., 1785-1815

AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
CONSECRATION,
BY ONE BISHOP,
A BISHOP "IN PARTIBUS,"
OF THE
FIRST ROMISH BISHOP
IN THE
UNITED STATES.

*A REPRINT, BY PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHIC PROCESS, OF
A CONTEMPORANEOUS ROMISH PAMPHLET.*



NEW YORK:
REPRINTED IN FAC-SIMILE FOR THE HISTORICAL CLUB.
MDCCCLXXVI.

Plowden, Charles

A SHORT ACCOUNT
OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE

New See of Baltimore in Maryland,

AND OF CONSECRATING THE

Right Rev. Dr. JOHN CARROLL first BISHOP thereof

On the Feast of the Assumption, 1790.

WITH A

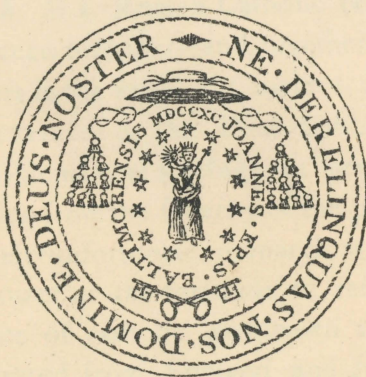
DISCOURSE

DELIVERED ON THAT OCCASION,

AND THE AUTHORITY FOR CONSECRATING THE
BISHOP, AND ERECTING AND ADMINISTERING
THE SAID SEE.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED

EXTRACTS from the different BILLS of RIGHT and
CONSTITUTION of the UNITED STATES,—That
Liberty of Conscience is the Birth-right of every Man,
and an Exclusion of any religious Test for ever.



L O N D O N:

Printed by J. P. COGHLAN, No. 37, Duke-Street,
Grosvenor-Square. 1790.

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A SHORT ACCOUNT
OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE
NEW SEE OF BALTIMORE.

THE Roman Catholic religion was introduced into Maryland, together with the first settlers in the reign of Charles I. who granted that province to the Lord Baltimore a catholic nobleman, as a refuge for persons of his religion from the severity of the penal laws, which that unfortunate monarch wanted either the power or the fortitude to restrain. A number of catholic gentlemen and others emigrated from England and Ireland with the hope of enjoying that repose in the new settlement, which was denied them in their native country. The unrelenting spirit of persecution

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lection pursued them over the Atlantic. It deprived them of the just fruits of their labours, it debarred them from every post of trust and profit in the colony which they had settled, it compelled them to maintain Protestant ministers, and finally it enforced against them many of the British penal laws, from the cruelty of which they had fled. R. F. Andrew White an English Jesuit of eminent piety and zeal accompanied the first colonists in 1632, and from that date till the late revolution the American catholics in Maryland and Virginia were constantly served by Jesuit missionaries successively sent from England. About the year 1720 the R. F. Grayton and others introduced catholicity into Pennsylvania, and it has since received a remarkable increase in that province. Since the peace of 1783 and the settlement of the American constitution, penal laws are no longer known, and Catholics enjoy an equal participation of the rights of human nature with their neighbours of every other religious denomination. The very term of *toleration* is exploded, because it imports a power in one predominant sect to indulge that religious liberty to others, which all claim as an inherent right. Catholic clergymen of various orders and nations

tions have resorted to America, and they every where find an ample vineyard to cultivate. In this state of religious freedom the clergymen judged it expedient to give stability and dignity to the catholic religion by the establishment of a regular hierarchy, and they therefore petitioned from the Pope the creation of an episcopal See and the appointment of a diocesan Bishop. The Pope applauding their zeal graciously admitted their request, and allowed them to elect their first Bishop. The Rev. Dr. John Carroll who had been for some years the superior of the mission was the object of their choice, and this Gentleman was accordingly appointed first Bishop of Baltimore. Upon the receipt of his Bulls from Rome he immediately repaired to England where his person and merit were well known, and presented himself for consecration to the Right Rev. Dr. Charles Walmesley Bishop of Rama, senior Vicar Apostolical of the catholic religion in this kingdom. By invitation of Thomas Weld Esq. the consecration of the new Bishop was performed during a solemn high Mass in the elegant chapel at Lulworth Castle, on Sunday the 15th day
of

of August 1790, being the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the munificence of that gentleman omitted no circumstance which could possibly add dignity to so venerable a ceremony. The two Prelates were attended by their respective assistant priests and acolytes according to the rubric of the Roman Pontifical; the richness of their vestments, the music of the choir, the multitude of wax lights and the ornaments of the altar concurred to increase the splendor of the solemnity, which made a lasting impression upon every beholder. When the whole company was seated, the following short address was delivered to the congregation by one of the assistant Priests.

A SHORT ADDRESS,

DELIVERED AUGUST 15, 1790.

IN THE

CHAPEL OF LULWORTH CASTLE,

AT THE CONSECRATION

OF THE RIGHT REVEREND

Dr. JOHN CARROLL,

APPOINTED FIRST BISHOP OF THE NEW
ERECTED SEE OF BALTIMORE IN NORTH
AMERICA.



OUR blessed Lord and Redeemer having defeated the powers of hell by the triumph of the cross, formed to himself a kingdom on earth which was to consist of the chosen of every nation, because all nations were now become his own by right of conquest. The Sun of justice which rose from the East, has in its progress enlightened every region of the globe, and the kingdom of Christ, the church, under the government of his Vicar and of
pastors

pastors deputed by him, has successively embraced the whole world. Ages succeed ages, empires subvert empires, but the empire of Jesus Christ perseveres ever one and the same, ever persecuted and ever conquering, because all human revolutions are entirely subservient to it, and the formation of the kingdom of Christ is the ultimate object of the whole dispensation of providence in the government of this world. Never perhaps was this truth more sensibly evinced, than in the late violent convulsions, by which the hand of the Almighty has dismembered the great British empire, and has called forth into existence a new empire in the Western world, the destinies of which, we trust, are founded in his tenderest mercies. For although this great event may appear to us to have been the work, the sport of human passions, yet the earliest and most precious fruit of it has been the extension of the kingdom of Christ, the propagation of catholic religion, which heretofore fettered by restraining laws, is now enlarged from bondage and is left at liberty to exert the full energy of divine truth. Already is catholicity extended to the utmost boundaries of the immense continent of America, thousands are there earnestly demanding catholic instructors, and

and all penetrated with reverence for the apostolical See of St. Peter have concurred to demand, from his successor a catholic prelate, whose knowledge and whose zeal may establish the faith of Peter upon the ruins of those errors, which the first inhabitants carried forth with them from this country. But if Britain infected them with error, we have the consolation to know that their catholicity is also derived immediately from us; and as we in former ages received the faith of Rome from the great St. Gregory and our apostle St. Austin, so now at the interval of twelve hundred years, our venerable prelate the heir of the virtues and labours of our apostle, will, this day, by commission from the successor of St. Gregory, consecrate the first Father and Bishop of the new church, destined, as we confide, to inherit those benedictions which the first called have ungratefully rejected. Glorious is this day, my brethren, for the church of God which sees new nations crouding into her bosom; glorious for the prelate elect, who goes forth to conquer these nations for Jesus Christ, not by the efforts of human power, but in the might of those weapons which have ever triumphed in this divine warfare; he is not armed with the strength of this world, but he

is powerful in piety, powerful in zeal, powerful in evangelical poverty and firm reliance on the protection of that God who sends him. Glorious is this event, for his numerous spiritual children, to whom his virtues have long endeared him, comforting it is to us who have been long connected with him by the virtuous ties of education profession and friendship; but in a special manner, my brethren, honorable and comforting is this awful solemnity to his and our common benefactor, the founder of this holy sanctuary, which shall be revered through succeeding ages, even by churches yet un-named, as the privileged, the happy spot, from whence their episcopacy and hierarchy took their immediate rise; and this precious distinction will be justly attributed to the protection and favour of the glorious mother of God, whose house it is*, and through whose patronage all christian churches are founded. On this her greatest solemnity, my brethren, it is your duty to implore the particular assistance of the great Queen of heaven; and while you are edified by the solemn rites with which the Catholic Church consecrates her prelates, you will earnestly solicit the

* It is dedicated to the B. V. Mary.

descent of the Holy Ghost on the Bishop elect, that like another Austin he may worthily fulfil the extent of the apostleship to which he is called, and when you implore for him the sevenfold grace of the Holy Spirit, you will not fail to demand it through the intercession of her whom you daily salute, "Mother of divine grace."

In full confidence of her protection and blessing upon our ministry, we proceed to the solemnity of the Consecration.

THE AUTHORITY

OF HIS HOLINESS

P O P E P I U S VI.

FOR CONSTITUTING THE

New See of Baltimore in Maryland.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL.

FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF POSTERITY.

WHEN from the eminence of our apostolical station, we bend our attention to the different regions of the earth, in order to fulfil to the utmost extent of our power the duty which our Lord has imposed upon our unworthiness of ruling and feeding his flock; our care and solicitude are particularly engaged, that the Faithful of Christ who dispersed through various provinces are united with us by Catholic communion, may be governed by their proper pastors and diligently instructed by them in the discipline of evangelical life and doctrine. For it is our principle, that they who relying on the divine assistance have regulated their lives and manners, agreeably to the

the precepts of Christian wisdom, ought so to command their own passions as to promote by the pursuit of justice their own and their neighbour's spiritual advantage; and that they, who have received from their Bishops, and by checking the intemperance of self-wisdom, have steadily adhered to the heavenly doctrine delivered by Christ to the Catholic Church, should not be carried away by every wind of doctrine, but grounded on the authority of divine revelation should reject the new and varying doctrines of men, which endanger the tranquility of government, and rest in the unchangeable faith of the Catholic Church. For in the present degeneracy of corrupt manners into which human nature ever resisting the sweet yoke of Christ is hurried, and in the pride of talents and knowledge which disdains to submit the opinions and dreams of men to the evangelical truth delivered by Jesus Christ, support must be given by that heavenly authority which is entrusted to the Catholic Church as to a steady pillar and solid foundation which shall never fail, that from her voice and instructions mankind may learn the objects of their faith and the rules of their conduct, not only for the obtaining of eternal salvation, but also for the regulation of this life and the

maintaining of concord in the society of this earthly city. Now this charge of teaching and ruling first given to the apostles and especially to St. Peter the prince of the apostles, on whom alone the church is built, and to whom our Lord and Redeemer entrusted the feeding of his lambs and of his sheep, has been derived in due order of succession to Bishops, and especially to the Roman Pontiffs, successors of St. Peter and heirs of his power and dignity, that thereby it might be made evident that the gates of hell can never prevail against the church, and that the divine founder of it will ever assist it to the consummation of ages, so that neither in the depravity of morals nor in the fluctuation of novel opinions the episcopal succession shall ever fail or the bark of Peter be sunk. Wherefore it having reached our ears that in the flourishing commonwealth of the Thirteen American States many faithful Christians united in communion with the chair of Peter, in which the centre of catholic unity is fixed, and governed in their spiritual concerns by their own priests having care of souls, earnestly desire that a Bishop may be appointed over them to exercise the functions of episcopal order, to feed them more largely with the food of salutary doctrine,

doctrine, and to guard more carefully that portion of the catholic flock; We willingly embraced this opportunity which the grace of Almighty God has afforded us to provide those distant regions with the comfort and ministry of a Catholic Bishop. And that this be effected more successfully and according to the rules of the sacred canons, We commissioned our Venerable brethren the Cardinals of the holy Roman church, directors of the Congrégation *de propaganda fide*, to manage this business with the greatest care, and to make a report to us. It was therefore appointed by their decree, approved by us, and published the twelfth day of July of the last year, that the priests who lawfully exercise the sacred ministry and have care of souls in the united States of America, should be empowered to advise together and to determine, first, in what town the episcopal See ought to be erected, and next who of the aforesaid priests appeared the most worthy and proper to be promoted to this important charge, whom We, for this first time only, and by special grace permitted the said priests to elect and to present to this apostolical See. In obedience to this decree the aforesaid priests exercising the cure of souls in the United States of America,

unanimously

unanimously agreed, that a Bishop with ordinary jurisdiction ought to be established in the town of Baltimore, because this town situate in Maryland which province the greater part of the priests and of the faithful inhabit, appeared the most conveniently placed for intercourse with the other States, and because from this province Catholic religion and faith had been propagated into the others. And at the time appointed for the election, they being assembled together, the sacrifice of holy Mass being celebrated, and the grace and assistance of the Holy Ghost being implored, the votes of all present were taken, and of twenty six priests who were assembled twenty four gave their votes for our beloved son John Carroll, whom they judged the most proper to support the burden of episcopacy, and sent an authentic instrument of the whole transaction to the aforesaid Congregation of Cardinals. Now all things being maturely weighed and considered in this Congregation, it was easily agreed that the interests and increase of Catholic religion would be greatly promoted, if an episcopal See were erected at Baltimore, and the said John Carroll were appointed the Bishop of it. We therefore, to whom this opinion has been reported by our beloved

beloved son Cardinal Antonelli Prefect of the said Congregation, having nothing more at heart than to ensure success to whatever tends to the propagation of true religion and to the honour and increase of the Catholic Church; by the plenitude of our apostolical power, and by the tenour of these present, do establish and erect the aforesaid town of Baltimore into an episcopal See for ever, for one Bishop to be chosen by us in all future vacancies; and We therefore, by the apostolical authority aforesaid, do allow, grant and permit to the Bishop of the said city, and to his successors in all future times, to exercise episcopal power and jurisdiction, and to hold and enjoy all and every right and privilege of order and jurisdiction, and of every other episcopal function, and which Bishops constituted in other places are empowered to hold and enjoy in their respective churches, cities and dioceses, by right, custom or by other means, by general privileges, graces, indults and apostolical dispensations, together with all pre-eminencies, honours, immunities, graces and favours, which other Cathedral Churches, by right or custom, or in any other sort, have, hold and enjoy. We moreover decree and declare the said episcopal See thus erected, to be subject
or

or suffragan to no Metropolitan right or jurisdiction, but to be for ever subject immediately to us, and to our successors the Roman pontiffs, and to this apostolical See. And till another opportunity shall be presented to us of establishing other Catholic Bishops in the United States of America, and till other dispositions shall be made by this apostolical See, We declare, by our apostolical authority, all the Faithful of Christ living in Catholic communion, as well ecclesiastics as seculars, and all the clergy and people dwelling in the aforesaid United States of America, though hitherto they may have been subject to other Bishops of other dioceses, to be henceforward subject to the Bishop of Baltimore in all future times; and to this Bishop and to his successors we impart power to curb and check, without appeal, all persons who may contradict or oppose their orders, to visit personally or by deputies all Catholic Churches, to remove abuses, to correct the manners of the faithful, and to perform all things which other Bishops in their respective dioceses are accustomed to do and perform, saving in all things our own authority and that of this apostolical See. And, whereas by special grant, and for this first

first time only, we have allowed the priests exercising the cure of souls in the United States of America, to elect a person to be appointed Bishop by us, and almost all their votes have been given to our beloved son John Carroll Priest; We being otherwise certified of his faith, prudence, piety and zeal, forasmuch as by our mandate he hath during the late years directed the spiritual government of souls, do therefore, by the plenitude of our authority, declare, create, appoint and constitute the said John Carrol Bishop and Pastor of the said church of Baltimore, granting to him the faculty of receiving the rite of consecration from any Catholic Bishop holding communion with the apostolical See, assisted by two Ecclesiastics vested with some dignity, in case that two Bishops cannot be had, first having taken the usual oath according to the Roman Pontifical. And we commission the said Bishop elect to erect a church in the said city of Baltimore, in form of a Cathedral Church, inasmuch as the times and circumstances may allow, to institute a body of clergy deputed to divine worship and to the service of the said church, and moreover to establish an episcopal seminary either in the same city

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or

or elfewhere as he fhall judge moft expedient, to adminifter ecclefiaftical incomes, and to execute all other things which he fhall think in the Lord to be expedient for the increafe of Catholic faith and the augmentation of the worfhip and splendour of the new-erected church. We moreover enjoin the faid Bifhop to obey the injunctions of our Venerable brethren the Cardinals Directors of the f acred Congregation *de propaganda fide*, to tranfmit to them at proper times a relation of his vifitation of his church, and to inform them of all things which he fhall judge to be ufeful to the fpiritual good and falvation of the flock trusted to his charge. We therefore decree that thefe our letters are and ever fhall be firm, valid and efficacious, and fhall obtain their full and entire effect, and be obferved inviolable by all perfons whom it now doth or hereafter may concern; and that all Judges ordinary and delegated, even auditors of caufes of the f acred apoftolical palace, and Cardinals of the holy Roman church muft thus judge and define, depriving all and each of them of all power and authority to judge or interpret in any other manner, and declaring all to be null and void, if any
one,

one, by any authority, should presume, either knowingly or unknowingly, to attempt any thing contrary thereunto. Notwithstanding all apostolical, general or special constitutions and ordinations, published in universal, provincial and synodical councils, and all things contrary whatsoever.

Given at Rome at St. Mary Major, under the Fisherman's Ring (Seal) the 6th day of November 1789, and in the 15th Year of our Pontificate.

D U P L I C A T E .

L. S.

R. CARD. BRASCHI ONESTI.

NOTES

TO THE

FAC-SIMILE REPRINT.

The preceding pages, copied in fac-simile, by photo-lithographic process, for the HISTORICAL CLUB, from a very rare pamphlet secured in England by the Rev. Francis L Hawks, D. D., LL. D., and now in the possession of the Rev. Wm. Stevens Perry, D. D., shew that, in marked contrast with the care taken that, at the Consecration of Seabury, and of White and Provoost, all should be done in accordance with the ancient Canons, the Romish hierarchy in this country began with a most irregular consecration, by *one* Bishop—a Bishop “*in partibus*,” and this, as will be seen, authorized by a Papal Bull.

Pages 20 to 32 of the pamphlet herewith reprinted, are taken up with “Extracts from the different Bills of Right and Constitutions of the Thirteen United States of North America; declaring Liberty of Conscience as the Birth-

right of all men. With copies of their Oaths of Allegiance and Trust."

It seems sufficient here, without reprinting these Extracts in full, to cite their Headings, which are, *verbatim et literatim*, as follows :

*New Hampshire Bill of Rights,—Part I. Article 5.
Dated at Concord, Oct. 31, 1783.*

*Massachusetts Constitution, Part I. Article 2. Dated
at Cambridge, March 2. 1780.*

Rhode Island Charter;—14th Charles II.

*Connecticut signed the General Convention, esteeming
any particular Declaration unnecessary.*

*New York Constitution, April 20, 1777.—Articles
38. and 39.*

New Jersey Constitution,—July 2, 1776.—Art. 18.

*Pensylvania Declaration of Rights,—Sept. 28, 1776.
—Chap. 1. Art. 2.—Chap. 2. Sect. 10.—Sect. 40.*

*Delaware Declaration of Rights,—Sept. 20, 1776—
Sect. 2. and 3.—Constitution, Art. 22.*

*Maryland Declaration of Rights,—Aug. 14. 1776.—
Art. 33. 35.—Constitution, Art. 55.*

Virginia signed the General Convention.

*North Carolina—Dec. 19. 1776.—Declaration of
Rights, Art. 19.—Constitution, Art. 34. 40. 41.*

South Carolina signed the Convention.

Georgia Constitution—Feb. 5. 1777.—Art. 56.

EXTRACTS from the GENERAL CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATIONS of the THIRTEEN UNITED STATES of AMERICA, assembled in CONGRESS, September 17, 1787, and the 12th of their INDEPENDENCE.

It is curious to notice the evident satisfaction these Declarations as to liberty of conscience gave to English and American Romanists in 1790, and then read the *Encyclicals* of Gregory XVI, (August 13, 1832), and of Pius IX, (December 8, 1863), denouncing the "insanity" * of those who declare, that, "Liberty of conscience is the right of every man, and that this right ought in every well governed State to be proclaimed and asserted by the law," † and the 79th Article of the *Syllabus*, stigmatizing the error of those who deny "That the civil liberty of every mode of worship, and, the full power given to all of overtly and publicly manifesting their opinions, and their ideas, of all kinds whatsoever, conduce more easily to corrupt the morals and minds of the people, and to the propagation of the pest of indifferentism.‡

* "Deliramentum."

† "Libertatem conscientiae et cultuum, esse proprium cujuscumque hominis jus, quod lege proclamari et asseri debet in omni recte constitutâ societate."

‡ "Civilem cujusque cultus libertatem, itemque plenam potestatem omnibus attributam quaslibet opiniones cogitationesque palam publiceque manifestandi, conducere ad populorum mores animosque facilius corrumpendas, ac indifferentismi pestem propagandam."

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